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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, 1948

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADY AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of placing before you a Report on the Health and Health Services of the District for the year ended 31st December, 1948, along with the Report of your Sanitary Inspector.

The Report contains details of certain health services which are not the responsibility of the Council, but I feel it is desirable that a review of all the health services in the area should be embodied in one document and that the Council would like to have this information at their disposal.

The year 1948 stands out both locally and generally as a landmark in social medicine. A National Health Service was established in Great Britain. The need to have all medical services available to everyone as a right of citizenship and a primary function of national policy has been felt by all nations which share our language and have the same basic political philosophy. Australia and South Africa are at the present time working out National Health Schemes similar to our own, and New Zealand did so before we did. Even in the United States of America, where the autonomous powers of the individual states make it difficult for the Federal Government to carry out a National Health Policy, much has been done by the award of Federal-Grants-in-Aid to level up the health services in that continent, and the institution of a National Health Service is believed by many to be imminent. It is safe to say that of all these countries, Britain is the most advanced and has a Health Service most resembling what she wants at the present time.

It is not surprising that the setting up of such a vast organisation has produced its own troubles, many of them of considerable magnitude. The Regional Hospital Boards are striving to set up a complicated administrative machine in the shortest

possible time. There are too few hospital beds, and far too few nurses to look after them. Even more serious is the shortage of bed and sanatorium accommodation for the tuberculous patient - a state of affairs likely to reflect on the incidence of tuberculosis in the future. The Dental Service has been over-run and the Ambulance Service stressed severely. The rush to obtain spectacles and hearing-aids has produced long delays before these articles can be supplied.

We are hindered in our progress towards health for all by the shortage of houses. The number of applicants for Council houses on the register at the end of 1948 was 280, but as this excludes the blackest spot in the area, the Parish of Brotherton, the real need for houses is probably twice that number. There are too few schools and too many children in the classes.

1948 also saw changes in local administration. For the first time a full-time Medical Officer of Health was appointed to serve the Rural District of Osgoldcross, along with Pontefract Borough, and the Urban Districts of Knottingley and Featherstone. At the same time he was made responsible for the administration of the County Health Services in these areas. It was hoped that setting up a health unit covering a population of 50,000 and making one official responsible for all health services within this unit, would make possible a more personal type of administration and satisfactory co-ordination of the services offered.

# PART ONE

## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

| | |
|---|---|
| Area of the district | 33,954 acres |
| Registrar-General's estimate of population | 7,790 |
| Number of inhabited houses at end of 1948 | 2,237 |
| Rateable value at end of 1948 | £26,860 |
| Product of penny rate (at 31st December, 1948) | £101 |

These figures show a population increase of 61.

VITAL STATISTICS -

Live Births

| | Male | Female | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| Legitimate | 67 | 64 | 131 |
| Illegitimate | 7 | 9 | 16 |
| Total - | 74 | 73 | 147 |

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population - 18.9

Still Births

| | Male | Female | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| Legitimate | - | 1 | 1 |
| Illegitimate | - | - | - |

Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births - 6.8
Rate per 1,000 estimated civilian population - 0.13

Deaths

| | Male | Female | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| All age groups | 37 | 29 | 66 |

Infants under 1 year

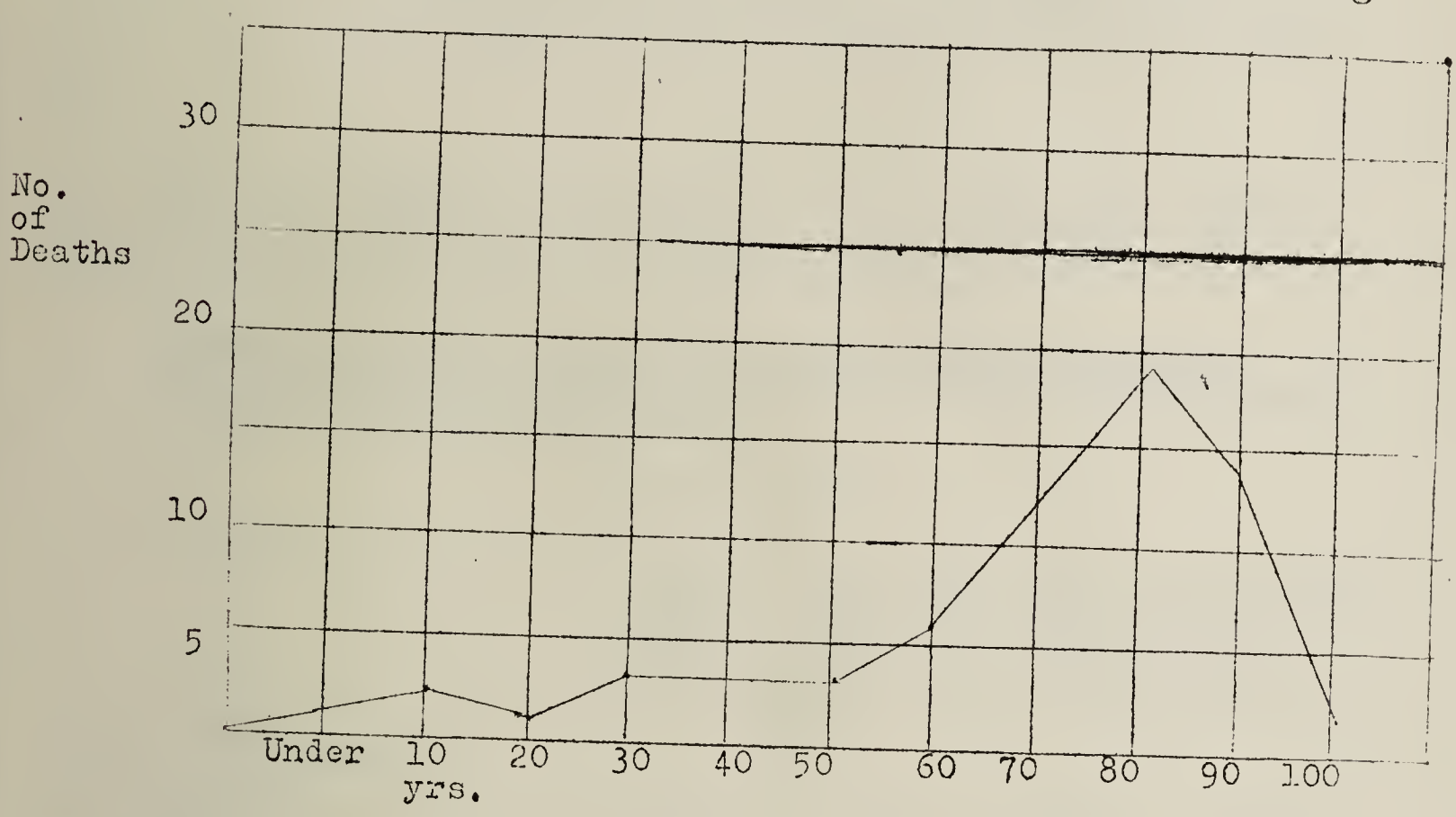
| | Male | Female | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| Legitimate | - | - | - |
| Illegitimate | 1 | - | 1 |

Maternal Deaths N I L

Death Rates

| | |
|---|---|
| General rate per 1,000 population | 8.5 |
| All infants per 1,000 live births | 6.6 |
| Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births | Nil |
| Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births | 62.5 |
| Maternal deaths | Nil |

The number of births is 11 greater than last year, and the birth rate has accordingly risen slightly. Still-births show a marked fall from 6 in 1947 to 1 in 1948. The number of deaths also shows a marked reduction. There were 100 in 1947 and only 66 in 1948. The graph showing the deaths in particular age groups gives an enlightening picture of the longevity which prevails in the Rural District. The shape of the curve is similar to last year. I am pleased to report that there were no maternal deaths during 1948.




The principal causes of death are set out in the following Table.

TABLE I

| Causes of Death | Male | Female | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| Tuberculosis, pulmonary | - | 1 | 1 |
| Cancer | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Diabetes | - | 1 | 1 |
| Intra-cranial vascular lesions | 5 | 1 | 6 |
| Heart diseases | 9 | 10 | 19 |
| Bronchitis | 5 | 3 | 8 |
| Pneumonia | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Other respiratory diseases | - | 1 | 1 |
| Ulcer of stomach or duodenum | 1 | - | 1 |
| Other digestive diseases | - | 1 | 1 |
| Nephritis | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Suicide | 1 | - | 1 |
| Road traffic accident | - | 1 | 1 |
| Other violent causes | 4 | - | 4 |
| All other causes | 6 | 6 | 12 |
| | 37 | 29 | 66 |

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The reduction in the number of deaths during the year as compared with the previous year is distributed evenly over the previous Table, thus deaths from tuberculosis have come down from 6 to 1; deaths from cancer from 9 to 4; deaths from intra-cranial vascular lesions from 13 to 6, and deaths from heart disease from 32 to 19. Although the reduction in the number of deaths is striking, not too much significance can be attached to these figures owing to the small numbers concerned.

Infant Mortality

There was only one infant death, a child aged four months who died from pneumonia in Northgate Lodge, Pontefract. This is a striking reduction from the 9 infant deaths of the previous year and gives an infant mortality rate of only 7.

Comparison of Osgoldcross Vital Statistics with other West Riding Rural Districts, The West Riding Administrative County, and England and Wales

T A B L E II

| | Osgoldcross Rural District | Aggregate West Riding Rural Districts | West Riding Admin. County | England & Wales (Provisional figures) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| BIRTH RATE (per 1,000 estimated population) | 18.9 | 19.2 | 18.5 | 17.9 |
| DEATH RATES (All per 1,000 estimated population) | | | | |
| All Causes | 8.5 | 9.8 | 11.3 | 10.8 |
| Zymotic diseases (seven principal) | - | 0.12 | 0.12 | * |
| Tuberculosis of Respiratory System | 0.13 | 0.36 | 0.37 | 0.44 |
| Other forms of Tuberculosis | - | 0.07 | 0.07 | 0.07 |
| Respiratory diseases (excluding tuberculosis of respiratory system) | 1.67 | 1.15 | 1.29 | * |
| Cancer | 0.51 | 1.49 | 1.74 | 1.86 |
| Heart and circulatory diseases | 2.44 | 3.03 | 3.73 | * |
| INFANT MORTALITY (Deaths under one year per 1,000 live births) | 7 | 40 | 39 | 34 |
| DIARRHOEA (Deaths under one year per 1,000 live births) | - | 4.97 | 4.38 | 3.3 |

* Figures not to hand.

Comparison of 1948 Statistics with those of 1947 and 1946.

| | 1948 | 1947 | 1946 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Live Births | 147 | 136 | 153 |
| Population | 7,790 | 7,624 | 7,467 |
| Birth Rate | 18.87 | 17.84 | 20.49 |
| Death Rate | 8.47 | 13.11 | 10.85 |
| Infant Death Rate | 6.53 | 66.18 | 52.0 |

## P A R T  T W O

## PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

The following Table shows the prevalence of infectious diseases throughout the year.

### T A B L E  III

| | Jan/ Mar | Apl/ June | July/ Sept | Oct/ Dec | Total | Deaths | Admitted to Hospital |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Scarlet Fever | 1 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 14 | - | 14 |
| Whooping Cough | 18 | 10 | 11 | 2 | 41 | - | - |
| Measles | 1 | 5 | 20 | 96 | 122 | - | - |
| Diphtheria | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 |
| Pneumonia | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | - |
| Erysipelas | 1 | - | - | 1 | 2 | - | 1 |

Certain of the above figures call for comment.

Measles

This disease has only been compulsorily notifiable since 1940. It is already evident, however, that its incidence follows a two-yearly cycle. The number of cases begins to rise about the month of April of a given year, and increases steadily, apart from a "notch" during the months of July and August, until the peak is reached at the end of the year. The number then falls until it is minimal by March of the following year. A year of quiescence then follows and the process is repeated.

It was expected that 1948 would be a "peak" year and this proved to be the case. The incidence of measles cases in the West Riding conformed exactly to the above pattern, though in more localised areas, the outbreaks were shorter and sharper and occurred at different points of the epidemiological curve. The peak in Osgoldcross was reached in October, though the incidence of the disease was still high at the end of the year.

It is now accepted that the administration of serum from a person convalescing from the disease affords some protective action. If given within a very short period following exposure it succeeds in at least thirty per cent of cases in preventing an attack altogether, though the immunity so conferred is not lasting. If given a longer period after exposure to infection, the patient has his attack of the disease, but it is much modified in character, and complications are rare. At the time the measles epidemic was prevalent in Osgoldcross a circular letter was sent to all general practitioners in the area explaining that a supply of this serum was available from the County Laboratory at Wakefield, though shortage of supplies compelled restriction of its use to children under the age of three years, this being the age group in which measles is most harmful.

Diphtheria

Only one case of diphtheria was notified.

Immunisation

During the year 54 children under the age of 5 years and 66 between 5 and 14 received a primary immunisation against diphtheria. In addition, 223 children received a reinforcing injection. The annual comb-out in the schools was carried out by Dr. Kehelly as in former years.

Whooping Cough

Notifications of whooping cough show an increase of 36 on last year's figure. Immunisation against whooping cough has not yet proved to be wholly satisfactory and is not carried out at the Clinics at the present time.

TUBERCULOSIS

The following Table summarises particulars contained in the register of tuberculous persons.

T A B L E IV

| No. of cases in Register | Respiratory M. | Respiratory F. | Non-Respiratory M. | Non-Respiratory F. | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| At the commencement of 1948 | 11 | 9 | 7 | 3 | 30 |
| Notified during 1948 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 6 |
| Removed during 1948 | - | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| At the end of 1948 | 12 | 12 | 8 | 3 | 35 |

P A R T T H R E E

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

Although no Clinics are held in the Rural Area proper, good use is made by the rural population of the Ante-Natal and

Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics held in Pontefract, Knottingley and Ferrybridge.

The following proprietary preparations were available at cost price (free in necessitous cases) to all women attending the Clinics.

| | |
|---|---|
| Ostermilk (Nos. 1 & 2) | Bemax |
| Humanised Trufood | Virol |
| Cow & Gate | Virolax |
| Lactogol | Farex |
| Ovaltine | Adexolin |
| Glucodin | |

The following were distributed free of charge.

I.C.D. Tablets
Ferrous Sulphate Tablets
Viteolin Tablets

During the year 10 women were sent to Leeds Maternity Hospital; 2 to Northgate Lodge, Pontefract; 2 to Wakefield General Hospital; 7 to Castleford Maternity Home; 2 to Walton Hall Maternity Home and 2 to Hazlewood Maternity Home.

Four midwives were employed in the area, one living at Monk Fryston, one at Whitley Bridge, one at Darrington and one at Brotherton. The last two shared the Rural District with other areas.

The following analysis of births occurring during 1948, adjusted by transferred notifications, indicates how the various maternity services and institutions were used.

1. No. of births occurring in the district during the year

| Domiciliary Cases | | |
|---|---|---|
| L.B. | S.B. | Total |
| 102 | - | 102 |

2. Outward Transfers

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | - | 1 |

3. Inward Transfers

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 46 | 1 | 47 |
| | | 148 |

Inward Transfers

| | |
|---|---|
| Private arrangements | 4 |
| Leeds Maternity Hospital | 10 |
| Pontefract Nursing Home | 10 |
| Northgate Lodge, Pontefract | 2 |
| Fairfield Nursing Home | 2 |
| Wakefield General Hospital | 2 |
| Castleford Maternity Home | 7 |
| Willows Nursing Home, Leeds | 1 |
| Abiel Nursing Home, Doncaster | 1 |
| Walton Hall Maternity Home | 2 |
| Hazlewood Maternity Home | 2 |
| Hamilton Annex | 1 |
| Private address | 2 |
| | 46 |

Care of Premature Infants

Two premature infants were notified during the year. In each case a special investigation was made and help given as required. Close liaison exists between hospitals and Authorities.

## P A R T  F O U R

## SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICES

Routine school medical inspections were carried out in the Osgoldcross schools during the year. Cases requiring consultation with a specialist, that is to say, orthopaedic cases; ear, nose and throat cases, and eye cases were referred to the appropriate Clinics at Pontefract and dealt with there.

## P A R T  F I V E

## HOME NURSING

It was felt that there was considerable scope for improving the Home Nursing Service in the area and in furtherance of that aim Nurse Ashworth commenced duty in December.

The demand which has been shown makes it quite clear that the need did, in fact, exist.

## P A R T  S I X

## CARE AND AFTER-CARE

Good liaison has been established between the Health Department and the principal hospitals in Leeds and Wakefield. The case histories of all patients discharged are sent to this office and the cases are followed up by the health visitor, all possible help being given. Liaison is not yet satisfactory with the Pontefract Infirmary, but it is expected that an Almoner will be appointed to this institution in the near future which should make matters easier.

Home Helps

A Home Help Service was made available in various parts of the area during the latter part of the year.

## P A R T  S E V E N

## MENTAL HEALTH

Mental Health is now a responsibility of a Sub-Committee of the County Council. Work under the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts, 1890 to 1930 has been undertaken by a Duly Authorised Officer living in Pontefract, and we have had one Mental Deficiency Social Worker, Miss Simons, for work under the Mental Deficiency Acts.

## P A R T  E I G H T

### AMBULANCE SERVICES

The Ambulance Service of the West Riding now operates under the central control of County Hall and its administration is the responsibility of the County Ambulance Officer. Certain local ambulances have not yet been taken over and continue to operate on an agency basis on behalf of the County Council. Osgoldcross is served from ambulances at Pontefract, Knottingley and Castleford. The call on the ambulance service has been exceedingly heavy and has increased greatly as a result of the National Health Service Act, 1946, coming into operation.

## P A R T  N I N E

### WATER SUPPLY

Those parishes which are served by a public water supply have enjoyed water satisfactory in quantity and quality during the year. Where no public supply exists, as at Heck, Balne and Birkin, there is a shortage which is becoming a formidable matter. The water supply at Heck is maintained by a portable tank, and it is astonishing that in the year 1948 this state of things has to be tolerated. To make matters worse it appears that the level of deep water from which the Osgoldcross wells draw their supply is showing a tendency to lower, and many wells, formerly useful, are now out of action.

Everything possible has been done by the Council to push on with its project of providing these areas with a main water supply but in spite of their efforts, the project is being delayed. In view of the increasing seriousness of the situation it is to be hoped that those in high quarters will do everything they can to expedite matters.

## P A R T  T E N

### FOOD POISONING

No case of food-poisoning was notified under the Food & Drugs Act, 1938, during the year.

I am,
Your obedient Servant,

JOHN F. FRASER

Medical Officer of Health.

# OSGOLDCROSS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

## ANNUAL REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1948

Mr. Chairman, Mrs Sharp and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my annual report on the working of my department and relevant matters for the year 1948.

NUISANCES.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Number of primary inspections | 280 | |
| Number of cases in which nuisances found | | 265 |
| Number of cases outstanding 1947 | | 15 |
| Cases dealt with | | 280 |
| Abated 1948 | | 259 |
| Outstanding | | 21 |

One Statutory Notice outstanding from 1947 was not complied with and the work was done by the Council in default of the owner.

Three Statutory Notices were served during the year. The required work was done by the owners in two cases. In the other case the work was done by the Council in default of the owner.

Defective conditions at houses accounted for 250 of the cases.

Two of the more serious nuisances originated in an adjoining District. One in respect of fumes from chemical works. The matter was taken up strongly with the management who appeared to be at some difficulty in dealing with the matter, but a mitigation of this trouble is looked for.

The other nuisance was the emission of smoke, fumes and grit from an electricity generating station. Contact was made with the management of this station also. The amount of smoke and grit emitted from this station has increased in recent years, due apparently to inferior fuel supplied for raising steam, and the excessive demands for current made upon the works. It is to be hoped that the completion of the enlargement of this Station (now in progress) and the construction of other similar stations in the country, together with improvement in the coal supply situation, will lead to the elimination of this smoke and grit trouble.

HOUSING

It has been possible to get a little more done in the way of repairs and improvements to houses, but progress in this direction is by no means satisfactory. Emphasis is still on new houses, and even in this respect the Council and private enterprise have met with much frustation. New houses have, however, been built by the Council, and a few by private enterprise, and some repairs and improvements have been effected at existing houses, the general housing situation being improved to that extent. The greatest concentration of unsatisfactory conditions continues at Brotherton, and it is encouraging to know that a scheme to rehouse the unfortunate people concerned is now definitely progressing.

## Action under Housing Acts and Regulations.

During the year 173 houses were inspected and recorded, bringing the total to 1,582.

These have been provisionally classified as

| | |
|---|---|
| Unfit | 239 |
| Seriously defective | 521 |
| Defective | 202 |
| Satisfactory | 620 |

Some 56 houses were repaired or improved in some degree, but not necessarily to the standard which is ultimately being aimed at.

## Overcrowding.

Fourteen cases of statutory overcrowding were abated by removal of occupants concerned to new Council houses. Indirectly this has been the means of relieving a few other cases. It is estimated that there are now about 40 cases of statutory over-crowding. Over-crowding regarded in a more practical sense has also been relieved in addition to the statutory cases mentioned, and the position in this respect is improving.

## Action under Public Health Acts.

Inspections apart from those above-mentioned have also been made in respect of the following matters

| | |
|---|---|
| Houses examined for vermin | 7 |
| Disinfested | 2 |
| (No action found necessary in the other cases) | |
| Houses inspected in connection with water supply, sanitary accommodation, etc. | 95 |
| Houses at which work required or undertaken | 75 |
| Work completed | 68 |

Statutory notices were served in respect of two houses in connection with the water supply, and the required work was eventually carried out.

## New houses.

A total of 65 houses were completed during the year, 48 by the Council and 17 by private enterprise.

Houses erected by the Council were, 12 at Beal, 8 at Cridling Stubbs (part of a scheme for 20), 12 at Monk Fryston, 12 at Egg-borough (a scheme which was to be 20, but is to be enlarged to 48) and 4 at Womersley (a scheme for 8 which is to be enlarged to 12).

Private enterprise was responsible for 1 at Beal, 3 at Birkin (adapted from existing buildings), 2 at Byram-cum-Sutton (1 adapted from existing building), 1 at Cridling Stubbs, 1 at Hillam (temporary structure), 3 at Darrington (1 adapted from existing building), 1 at Hensall, 4 at Eggborough (1 a temporary structure) and 1 at Womersley (adapted from existing building).

The number of houses at the end of the year was 2,237.

WATER

There has been little alteration regarding the water supplies of the District. A Ministry of Health Public Inquiry was held in June in connection with the Council's application for sanction for a loan for that part of their general scheme which applied to Balne, Birkin, Heck, Stapleton and part of Womersley. Much correspondence and negotiation has taken place since, but the Minister's decision had not been made known by the end of the year. It would appear that the Council's proposals regarding even these places will have to be considerably curtailed.

At Heck the Pontefract Corporation are constructing a bore hole with a view to augmenting the supply for their water undertaking.

Extensions of mains have been made to serve new Council housing sites at Cridling Stubbs and Womersley. A few more connections from mains have been made to houses.

I again append a table showing in each parish the number of houses taking water from public mains, showing the number with taps in the house, and the number of those served by stand pipes or taps in yards (mostly one tap to two or more houses). The total percentage of these is 84.6. If to these is added the number of houses with a tap supply from private sources the total percentage is 88.46.

The main source of supply continues to be the Pontefract Corporation undertaking, which has two boreholes and pumping plants in this District and a third one (previously mentioned) under construction.

The Council's own water works continues to supply the major part of Darrington parish.

Houses having piped supplies from public sources have received adequate quantities and satisfactory quality. Private piped supplies in some cases have not been so certain, but in one of these cases a change over to a public supply was effected.

At Heck, Balne and Birkin where there is no public supply, the shortage has continued, a partial supply at Heck being maintained by a portable tank.

Some of the well water in places not having a public supply is unsatisfactory in quality.

Ten samples of water (2 Darrington public supply and 3 private wells) were submitted for chemical analysis and were reported to be satisfactory.

Twenty seven samples were submitted for bacteriological examination. Six from private wells were unsatisfactory. One from Darrington water works was doubtful, but subsequent samples were satisfactory. Twenty from public (including Darrington) and private piped supplies, and private wells were satisfactory.

| Parish | No.of houses. | Population | Supplied by public water mains | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Direct to house | | By stand pipe | |
| | | | No.of houses | Pop. | No.of houses | Pop. |
| Balne | 78 | 280 | - | - | - | - |
| Beal | 161 | 545 | 120 | 407 | 29 | 88 |
| Birkin | 39 | 140 | - | - | - | - |
| Brotherton | 372 | 1460 | 372 | 1460 | - | - |
| Burton Salmon | 72 | 235 | 69 | 227 | - | - |
| Byram-c-Sutton | 86 | 235 | 74 | 199 | - | - |
| C. Stubbs | 57 | 190 | 45 | 156 | 9 | 28 |
| Darrington | 148 | 390 | 130 | 344 | 12 | 26 |
| E.Hardwick | 60 | 215 | 60 | 215 | - | - |
| Eggborough | 161 | 480 | 131 | 378 | - | - |
| Fairburn | 183 | 760 | 182 | 756 | - | - |
| Heck | 55 | 185 | - | - | - | - |
| Hensall | 127 | 425 | 116 | 393 | 10 | 30 |
| Hillam | 97 | 402 | 68 | 311 | 14 | 43 |
| Kellington | 107 | 390 | 93 | 338 | 11 | 44 |
| Monk Fryston | 153 | 440 | 111 | 313 | 18 | 50 |
| Stapleton | 31 | 100 | 1 | 4 | - | - |
| Whitley | 143 | 410 | 112 | 325 | 15 | 32 |
| Womersley | 107 | 325 | 86 | 246 | 5 | 18 |
| | 2237 | 7607 | 1770 | 6072 | 123 | 359 |
| | | | 79.12% | 79.8% | 5.5% | 4.71% |
| Houses with tap supplies from private sources | | | 86 | 278 | | |
| | | | 3.84% | 3.65% | | |

SEWERAGE.

Sewers have been constructed at Cridling Stubbs, Whitley and Womersley to serve the new Council housing sites. Pending the provision of adequate sewerage and sewage disposal facilities settlement tanks have been provided to deal with the sewage before discharge into existing sewers or dikes.

A defective length of exposed earthenware piped sewer near the Welfare ground at Brotherton has been reconstructed with iron pipes.

Apart from the foregoing there has been no work of note carried out in connection with sewerage or sewage disposal.

The scheme for the much needed replacement of the Brotherton disposal works, a proper disposal of the Fairburn sewage, and sewerage and disposal works for Sutton Lane has been further delayed by the consideration as to whether a joint scheme with the Knottingley Urban District should be adopted.

The likelihood of the Council's scheme for the sewerage and sewage disposal of the District in general being carried out in the near future appears to have receded.

These delays and frustrations are much to be regretted as in the meantime inadequate sewerage, foul dikes and troublesome cesspools must continue and probably even deteriorate. Progress in sanitation is thus held up.

SCAVENGING.

This was the second complete year in which the whole of the District was serviced by the Council, the work being done by direct labour and the Council's own vehicles, two motor vehicles with sliding covers.

With the present number of men engaged and number of hours worked it has been found difficult to keep up with the work. This difficulty was accentuated by the reduction of working hours which took place in October. A considerable number of new houses have been erected calling for weekly or at least fortnightly attention. In these circumstances it is not possible to empty middens and ashpits as frequently as is desirable.

There were 10 conversions to water closets, 5 from privies and 5 from pail closets. Eleven privies were converted to pail closets. Of the 65 new houses 62 were provided with water closets, bringing the total number in the District approximately to 930. The number of other types of closet were about 1,319, dust bins 784, middens and ashpits 660.

Cesspool emptying is carried out by the Surveyor's department. Since the service was extended throughout the District as a public service the demand has increased so much in some places that the Council have deemed it expedient to limit the number of times a cesspool shall be emptied in a year without a charge being made.

Including cesspool emptying the cost of scavenging works out at about 22/- per house per year; 5d per week. Considering the scattered nature of the houses in much of the area this is surely a modest cost.

SALVAGE.

A few places, such as shops, keep their paper and cardboard for special collections by our vehicles and the vehicles on their routine rounds collect and save such paper and rags as are available. There is no other organised effort now in operation. I am able to record, however, nearly twice as much paper and cardboard collected and sold as in the previous year and more than twice as much textiles. The metals collected were considerably less in value. The total sales amounted to £93 . 18 . 7.

The materials sold were

| | T. | C. | Q. | lbs. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Paper and cardboard | 10 | 0 | 1 | 5 |
| Textiles (Rags, bagging, string) | | 12 | 1 | 11 |
| Iron | 1 | 19 | 3 | 0 |
| Non ferrous metals | | 1 | 5 | 20 |
| Rubber | | 1 | 2 | 7 |
| Glass bottles and jars | 16 gross 10 doz. | | | |

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The 12 cases of Scarlet Fever, (3 less than the previous year) was a low incidence for the District. Apart from two sisters at one house there appeared to be no connection between the cases, which were widely distributed as to location, time of occurrence, and age of patients.

The solitary case of Diphtheria, an adult, was the first one in the District since May 1944, except for a case in 1947 which had been contracted whilst the patient was living outside the District.

Disinfection was carried out at the homes of these patients and at the homes of a Tuberculous case removed to Sanatorium, and one removed to a new house.

SCABIES.

This trouble appears to have more or less died out as I have no information as to any cases this year.

INFESTATION.

Investigation of 7 houses where insect vermin was feared revealed one infested with fleas, one with bugs and one with cockroaches, the other houses being apparently clear. The house with bugs was in a bad state and needed a thorough treatment. It was cleared by liquid insecticide containing D.D.T.

Rats and mice destruction (rodent control) work has continued and the rodent operative has visited all parts of the District and carried out destruction work in most parts. It has not been necessary to serve any statutory notices this year.

In all cases where infestation was found on private premises the occupiers agreed for the Council to carry out destruction measures at the occupiers expense.

Most of the work was carried out in the first half of the year, and some survey work and inquiries in the second half indicated a reduced state of infestation, and few complaints were received concerning private premises.

During the year 69 infestations were treated, 10 major and 59 minor, involving 86 treatments,

Some industrial premises are dealt with by Servicing Companies and are not included in these figures. Agricultural properties are dealt with by the County Agricultural Executive Committee.

Sewers also are not included in the figures given above. Test baiting is carried out each year in manholes at Brotherton and Darrington. Hitherto we have found very little infestation, but this year there was a marked infestation in a section of the Brotherton sewers and a full treatment of this section was given.

The local Rats and Mice Destruction Planning and Advisory Committee (Group No.11) have functioned actively during the year. A notable meeting was an open one to which members of constituent authorities were invited for which an exhibition was arranged and films shown. An annual report is issued and copies are available.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The District continues without licenced slaughterhouses as there has been no change regarding centralised slaughter under Government control.

Butchers shops and premises have been maintained and the business conducted in a satisfactory manner.

The question of pig killing for personal supply cropped up acutely, and there were strong suggestions that a number of places should be licenced for the purpose. As this meat is not intended for sale, however, such places are not slaughter houses within the meaning of the Public Health Act and do not require to be licenced. The Food Control authorities have made arrangements for recognition of a number of places for this purpose, after consulting me on the question.

The amount of unfit food encountered was very small being 15 lbs. of bacon at a shop and 24 x 6 lbs. tins of corned beef at a Ministry of Food Buffer Depot. All this was surrendered and suitably disposed of.

Ice cream. We have two manufacturers in the District. One making for his own retail trade (premises satisfactory) the other who commenced in a very small way a year or two ago developing a substantial wholesale business. The latter's premises have been in a state of transition and development for some time, but should be satisfactory when completed. Only two other premises were registered for the sale of ice cream and were satisfactory.

Four samples were submitted for bacteriological examination. Three were satisfactory (1 provisional grade 1, 2 provisional grade 2) 1 was hardly satisfactory (provisional grade 3). The last one was followed by a satisfactory sample from the same source.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

There were a few changes in registration during the year. At the end of the year there were 90 milk producers registered; 51 as wholesalers, 29 as retailers, the remainder doing little or no business.

The number of cows continued about 720 and 107 cowsheds were in use.

Of 3 retailers registered who are not producers one has no premises within the District.

Another producer was granted a licence for Tuberculin Tested milk, the second in the District. Two Accredited and one Supplementary Pasteurised licences were renewed.

Two samples of Tuberculin Tested milk on bacteriological examination were found satisfactory. A sample of Accredited milk was found unsatisfactory, but a later sample from the same source was satisfactory. Two samples of ungraded milk examined as for Accredited milk did not satisfy that test.

One producer referred to in my annual report for 1947, whose premises were unsatisfactory and who was being pressed in the matter left the farm, thus disposing of that matter.

General conditions in most cases were satisfactory. Cleanliness of cows on the whole was good. There is a growing practice of keeping cows in a covered fold yard bedded daily with fresh straw, and using the cowshed for milking only. Results from the cleanliness point of view appear to be satisfactory, for cows and cowsheds where this practice has been adopted in the District have been quite as clean, and in some cases cleaner, than when the cows were kept in the cowsheds; and much less effort must be required under the fold yard system. Some 130 visits were made to dairy premises. As usual a few reminders were necessary as to the keeping clean of milking stools, keeping milk covered while in the cowshed and limewashing.

A little progress has been made in structural work, new cowsheds or other substantial improvements having been made at 7 farms. Other work is awaiting builders' ability to carry it out.

The extension of water mains is still awaited at a number of dairies to enable proper cooling of milk to be carried out. Machine milking is gradually extending and the possibility of producing Tuberculin Tested milk appears to be receiving wider consideration.

FACTORIES.

The 26 factories in the District received 34 visits of inspection. Mechanical power is employed at 21 of the factories in which cases the Council are concerned only with the sanitary accommodation. This was faulty in 4 cases, 2 of which had been rectified by the end of the year, and the other 2 were then outstanding.

At the other factories conditions were satisfactory. Requirements were also complied with in the case of 6 building undertakings.

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It is with regret that I record the loss of the services of my former Clerical and General Assistant Mr.J.R.Livesey. Mr. Livesey left in August to do his spell of National Service duty with the R.A.F. Part time clerical assistance was arranged for pending his return, but he has since resigned the appointment, and a suitable replacement requires consideration.

Yours obediently,

GORDON LEDWITH.